



## TASRACING MINI TROTS RULES AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP



### MINI TROTS RULES AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

**CONTROLLER: RACING OPERATIONS MANAGER**

**OWNER: CODE LEAD – HARNESS**

**REVIEWED: AUGUST 2023**

**SCHEDULED REVIEW: JULY 2024**

#### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Tasracing conducts the Mini Trot Program in Tasmania.

It is a condition of membership of the Tasracing Mini Trots Program that the members will abide by these rules and any policies implemented by Tasracing.

These rules have been developed to ensure the safe running of the Mini Trots Program and should be read in conjunction with the HRA National Mini Trot Rules.

Members and their parents, guardians, supporters, friends, and family acknowledge that the purpose of the Mini Trot Program is to promote fair competition, learning and encourage participation in harness racing at a grass roots level.

Tasracing are committed to providing a safe environment for every person involved in Mini Trot Program events and associated activities.

Tasracing endorse the *Australian Sports Commission Junior Sport Code of Behaviour* and expect all parties involved in the Mini Trots Program to comply with these codes as they apply to our sport.

Any person involved with the Mini Trot Program is bound by the Australian Harness Racing Rules and the Tasracing Mini Trot Race Day Procedures.

#### 2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- a) **“Clerk of the Course”** means the official Clerk of the Course appointed by Tasracing at a race meeting.
- b) **“Handicapping Committee”** means a group appointed by Tasracing to assist with the handicapping of Mini Trot ponies.
- c) **“Tasracing Approved Representative” or ‘Mini Trot Representative’** means a person selected by Tasracing to assist in the running of Mini Trot events.
- d) **“Handlers”** a person who assists Mini Trot drivers on the track.
- e) **“Steward”** means the person/s appointed by the Office of Racing Integrity to act in the Stewards role on the day of the races or trials.
- f) The term **“member”** and **“driver”** are interchangeable.

g) Unless a contrary intention appears, words importing a gender include any other gender, and words in a singular include the plural and vice versa.

h) 'Licence' refers to a Harness Stablehand, Trainer, or Drivers licence approved by the Office of Racing Integrity or other PRA for the current harness racing season or a Mini Trot Driver membership approved by Tasracing.

### **3. BEHAVIOUR OF MEMBERS**

Any member whose behaviour is deemed to bring Tasracing/and or Clubs into disrepute will have their membership cancelled and accordingly, nominations refused.

All members must present themselves and their ponies in a professional manner when competing.

It is imperative that the Mini Trots are conducted in an efficient manner without delays or problems on race days as the program is subject to critical time restraints.

Parents / Guardians of Tasracing Mini Trots members must abide by these rules or they may be banned from attending future Mini Trots events.

### **4. SEASON**

The Tasmanian Mini Trots season runs from October to the end of April each year.

### **5. TASRACING REPRESENTATIVE**

To be an approved Tasracing Mini Trot Representative a person **MUST** at a minimum.

- Hold a current Harness industry licence,
- hold a current Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration, and
- have proven knowledge on how a Mini Trot event is conducted.

### **6. REGISTRATION**

**All Mini Trot drivers and ponies must be registered each season prior to nominations being accepted to compete in a Mini Trot race.**

The age, height, and weight of individual drivers must be balanced against the breed, size, age, and their control of the pony they wish to drive before participation is approved to compete in Mini Trot events.

A Mini Trot driver must only drive the pony/s that they have been approved to drive, by Tasracing, unless otherwise approved by Tasracing.

#### **Mini Trot Drivers Registrations**

Mini Trot Drivers must have reached a minimum age of five (5) years and not be older than seventeen (17) years of age to apply for a Mini Trot Membership.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Mini Trot driver can compete until the last day of being seventeen (17) years of age or when they have driven in a sanctioned race (TAB or Non-TAB) – whichever comes first. For the sake of clarity, this does not include trials.

Mini Trot members must not have driven/competed in a harness race for prizemoney.

**a) Application for New Membership**

A Mini Trot Driver application for membership must be lodged with Tasracing.

If the driver has not previously held a Mini Trot Membership, they will need to attend a minimum of one (1) Mini Trot education/trial day and successfully complete a competency-based practical assessment to the satisfaction of an approved representative appointed by Tasracing.

Additional trials will be required if the pony did not compete in the previous Mini Trot season (refer to Pony Registrations)

**b) Application to Renew a Membership**

A Mini Trot Driver application for membership must be lodged with Tasracing.

Drivers who are using the same pony as the previous season will not need to complete a competency-based assessment.

Drivers who are wanting to use a new pony, approved by Tasracing, will be required to successfully complete a competency-based practical assessment to the satisfaction of an approved representative appointed by Tasracing.

**Pony Registrations**

Ponies must have reached the age of two (2) years prior to being eligible to compete in sanctioned races. Proof of age may be required prior to an application to register a pony being granted.

Ponies must be 13hh or under. Ponies will be measured if there is a height dispute.

Pony stallions are excluded, as are any registered or freeze branded standardbreds.

**a) Application for registration**

Pony applications for registration must be lodged with Tasracing.

If a pony has not been registered to race or has not competed in the previous season, it must be assessed for its eligibility to be registered by an approved representative appointed by Tasracing. Previously unregistered ponies will be required to compete in a minimum of two (2) pony trials prior to being registered to race in a Mini Trot race in Tasmania. A minimum of two (2) ponies are required to run a Mini Trot trial.

**b) Application to renew a registration**

Pony applications for registration must be lodged with Tasracing.

Ponies who were registered with Tasracing in the previous Mini Trot season and raced during that season, are not required to undertake a competency assessment unless the registration is being submitted by a new Mini Trot driver.

The decision of Tasracing to register or refuse to register a pony for participation is final.

## **7. DRESS STANDARDS AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS OF MEMBERS**

All gear and equipment must be of a suitable quality, well maintained and meet the minimum standards set out below.

Due to OH&S requirements any persons entering the Mini Trot area will be refused entry if they are not wearing appropriate closed toe footwear.

### **7.1 Vests**

Members shall at all times wear a properly fitted body protector (vest) to the equestrian standard Beta 1, Beta 2 and or Beta 3 when driving a pony.

### **7.2 Helmets**

An approved helmet, to the equestrian standard AU/NZ 3838 or VG1, must be a correct fit for the driver and worn correctly fastened at all times when driving or sitting on a sulky attached to a pony.

It is recommended to update helmets every three years, or earlier in the event of an accident, incident or increased wear and tear.

Any helmet worn in a fall or incident where there has been an impact to the helmet, must be surrendered to Tasracing's Approved Representative.

### **7.3 Footwear**

A driver shall wear boots (no laces) which may be black or tan and which entirely cover feet and ankles and afford reasonable protection.

### **7.4 Colours and Pants**

A driver's dress attire shall be clean and tidy at all times.

Colours must be of an approved material.

Trousers must be white and made of suitable materials, unless otherwise approved by Tasracing.

### **7.5 Whips**

Whips are not permitted to be used or carried in Mini Trot events.

Reins must not be used in a manner that resembles a whip motion.

### **7.6 Sulkies & Wheel's**

Sulkies must be of approved standard as set out in Schedule 1

All sulkies must have a dust sheet affixed.

All harness gear must be safe and meet all OH&S requirements.

#### **8. STARTING PROCEDURE AND RACING ETIQUETTE**

Drivers and ponies must arrive at the track at least 45min prior to the start of their first race.

Children/Parents/Guardians are not permitted to ride on the side of a member's sulky at any time.

Drivers are not permitted to race with their feet out of the stirrups or on the dustsheet. Offending drivers will be automatically disqualified.

Drivers shall, at all times, obey the instructions of the Clerk of the Course.

A driver must not delay the start of a race or be late onto the track.

A pony driven by any driver who shouts loudly, makes improper noises or attempts to do anything which interferes with the progress of another runner may be disqualified.

A pony driven by a driver who uses their reins to whip their ponies will be disqualified.

Drivers shall not before, during, or after a race, drive in a manner which in the opinion of the Stewards or Tasracing Approved Representative careless, reckless, intimidatory, improper, incompetent, foul or likely to endanger other participants or ponies.

A pony driven by a driver who looks behind during a race will receive one warning. A pony may be disqualified if the driver reoffends.

Drivers must, at all times, keep a straight racing line after passing another competitor (no weaving in or out) or the pony driven by that driver may be disqualified.

Once on the racetrack, drivers must proceed immediately to their handicap mark. If the driver's pony will not stand, the driver must have a handler holding the pony until the starter gives the signal to race.

Handlers must hold a current harness industry licence and wear a high visibility vest while on the track.

If a member's pony requires a handler and the handler is not present the pony may be declared a non-starter.

Handlers must not run and cheer from the infield.

Handlers must not push, pull, or conduct any action that could advantage a driver at the start of a race.

Any person participating in the Mini Trot events who fails to comply with these Conditions of Membership is guilty of an offence and may be penalised.

## 9. HANDICAPPING

All Mini Trot races will be run over a minimum distance of 400m.

Ponies will be handicapped at the commencement of each season by undertaking a 400m timed trial. These handicaps will be the baseline. Baseline handicaps will be utilised as is at Carrick, Burnie and Launceston.

The following amendments will be made for Hobart:

All Mini Trot races at Hobart will be run with a front of 600m. Additional handicaps will be adjusted according to their baseline handicaps.

**At the discretion of the Handicapping Committee, a pony may be bought forward to help it remain competitive with the field.**

All final decisions regarding handicapping will be at the discretion of the Tasracing Approved Representative.

## 10. NOMINATIONS

All nominations are to be lodged with Tasracing.

Nominations will close 5pm the day the official race fields for the relevant meeting are released to the public.

A minimum of three (3) pony nominations are required to hold up a race.

Late nominations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of Tasracing.

## 11. SCRATCHING

Scratching's can be placed with Tasracing between 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday or directly with the Tasracing Approved Representative up to two (2) hours prior to the start of the first Mini Trot race.

## 12. JUDGES

Races shall be judged by the Tasracing Approved Representative, the stewards and or any other person as appointed by Tasracing. Where possible the race day judge will be used.

The judge's decision is final.

If an error has been identified **only** the judge can issue revised results.

**Commented [AB1]:** Why is this being removed? How will the horses be handicapped.

13. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date	Version	Author	Approved by
August 2021	V1	S Maher	A Barrett
September 2022	V2	S Maher	A Barrett
<u>August 2023</u>	<u>V3</u>	<u>S Maher</u>	<u>A Barrett</u>

## **Schedule 1.**

### **Sulky Standard**

- No less than 900mm and no wider than 1200mm
- No longer than 2750mm
- The sulky shafts, frame and undercarriage shall be manufactured from steel or another material if approved by HRA. Accepted steels are mild steel, low carbon alloy steel, low alloy steel (including chrome-molybdenum alloys, chrome-manganese alloys, etc) and structural stainless steel alloys with a minimum tensile strength of 350MPa and a minimum elongation at break of 20%.
- All edges must be rounded, including shaft tips
- Wooden sulkies, including shafts are not permitted (as of 1 July 2017)
- The sulky shall contain:
  - o Two wheels,
  - o Undercarriage,
  - o Two shafts for attachment to the horse,
  - o A driver's seat, and
  - o Driver's footrests.

### **Wheel Standard**

The wheel diameter shall be in the range of 508mm (20") to 660.4mm (26") for Ponies and no smaller than 406.4mm (16") for Shetlands - but to be viewed in the context of what is appropriate given the height of the pony.

The wheel shall be:

- attached to the sulky via a conventional T-bar axle or other approved axles.
- if spoked, be covered on both sides by a disc of approved brand.

The tyres shall be an approved type and be no more than 50mm in width.

Wheels shall be manufactured from approved materials only. Wooden wheels are not permitted.